

Applicant(s): Cornelis L. G. Ham et al.
Serial No.: 10/791,024
Filed: March 2, 2004
For: METHOD OF AND DEVICE FOR THE COMPENSATION OF VARIATIONS OF THE MAIN MAGNETIC
FIELD DURING MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING
Art Unit: 2859
Examiner: Fetzner, Tiffany A.

Attorney Docket No.: PHN17333B

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application in view of the claims as set forth above and further in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application with claims 1 and 2 being amended hereby. No new matter has been added by such amendments. Support for the proposed amendment(s) can be found in the specification as originally filed (e.g., p. 6, lns. 27-32).

The Office Action dated October 19, 2004: (1) objected to claim 2 for informalities; and (2) rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,566,875 to Hasson et al. (hereinafter the "Hasson reference").

Regarding item (1) identified above, Applicants respectfully submit that present claim 2, as revised, effectively traverses the stated objection thereto. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the stated objection to claim 2 are respectfully requested.

Regarding item (2) identified above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present pending claims are each patentable over the Hasson reference at least because such reference fails to disclose and/or suggest all of the features associated with such claims.

For example, with respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully note that claim 1 reads on a method for determining a compensation signal for the compensation of a temporally varying field strength of a main magnetic field of a main magnet of a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) device in which the MRI device and its immediate vicinity are substantially steady. Applicants respectfully submit that the Hasson reference not only fails to disclose and/or suggest at least this element of present claim 1, but such reference, which is primarily directed to a portable monitoring system associated with a transport unit for transporting a quantity of hyperpolarized gas over long

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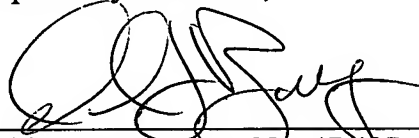
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transport distances in various (potentially depolarizing) environmental conditions and for long time periods (col. 2, lns. 17-20), also teaches and/or suggests away from present claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the stated rejection of claim 1 are respectfully requested.

Given that claim 1 is patentable over the prior art of record, it follows that claims 2-20, which depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, are likewise patentable over the Hasson reference at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the stated rejection of claims 2-20 are respectfully requested.

In sum, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and more particularly that the current pending claims are clearly patentable over the art of record. Accordingly, entry of this amendment, reconsideration of the rejections of the claims over the references cited, and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



David L. Barnes, Reg. No. 47,407
Attorney for Applicant(s)

PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS
P.O. Box 3001
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510
Tel: (914) 333-9693
Fax: (914) 332-0615
Email: dave.barnes@philips.com
www.ip.philips.com